GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2871
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
ILL EFFECTS OF GM CROPS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being undertaken to educate the farmers about ill effects of G.M. crops;

(b) the extent to which the Government is helping the NGOs and individuals who are strivingfor the cause of preservation of Bio-diversity in the country; and

(c) the amount of funds provided to each of such NGOs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) organized eight training cum awarenessworkshops in different parts of the country during August, 2002 to February, 2003 to educate farmers about the advantages of application of biotechnology in agriculture, the regulatory regime for approval of Genetically Modified (GM) crops and precautions to be taken whileplanting Bt. cotton to ensure biosafety. This year also, MOEF has undertaken a similar exercise in the six States where Bt. cotton is being cultivated.

(b)&(c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been supporting Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOS) in the collection of germ plasm, documentation of indigenous traditional knowledge and awareness generation at grassroots level.

25 NGOs were provided with financial support of Rs.22.69 lakhs for the period fromJuly, 1999 to December, 2003 under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). 3 NGOs were provided with financial support of Rs.99.58 lakhs during the same period under the Sub Project on Household Food and Nutritional Security for Tribal, Backward Hill Areas.